

Serial No. 10/673636

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, 15, and 17-20 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 21 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, 15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, 15, and 17-20 have been cancelled. This rejection is thus moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 21 have been so amended. The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

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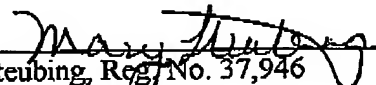
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For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

10/27/05
Date


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